

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, April 10, 2003
Richard D. Carney Municipal Office Building
Meeting Room B

Convened: 7:05 P.M.

Present: Daniel DeWolfe, Gene Buddenhagen, Charles Giacoppe, John Campell, James McCaffrey, Donna O'Connor, Francis Russell

Also Present: Daniel Morgado, Town Manager, Michael Hale, Assistant Town Manager, Christopher Kirk

Presiding: Daniel DeWolfe

- I. Mr. Morgado presented a draft copy of the Finance Committee report to Town Meeting members. He reviewed the narrative portion of the report with the Committee. He stated that the budget recommendations in the report are based on the budget submitted by the Governor. He stated that the House and Senate have yet to release there budget proposals but that he received a report today from Representative Polito which indicates that House leaders are considering Local Aid cuts from 15 to 18.5%. He reported that a 15% cut would mean that an additional \$1.2 million in budget cuts and/or revenue enhancements for Shrewsbury.
- II. The Committee made the following recommendations on the warrant article for the May 19th annual town meeting.

Article	Purpose	Recommendation
1	Town Reports	Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting
2	Wright & Harlow Trustees	Recommended by the Finance Committee
3	Amend Pay & Class	Recommendation to be made at Meeting with Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen
4	Medical Expenses	Recommended by the Finance Committee
5	FY 2003 Deficits	Recommended by the Finance Committee
6	Town Budget	Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting

7	Capital Budget	Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting
8	Sale of Cemetery Lots	Recommended by the Finance Committee
9	Bills of Prior Year	Recommended by the Finance Committee
10	Street Acceptances	Recommended by the Finance Committee subject to favorable Planning Board Report
11	Accept Land - Fox Farm III	Recommended by the Finance Committee subject to favorable Planning Board Report
12	Accept Land - Prospect Hill	Recommended by the Finance Committee subject to favorable Planning Board Report
13	Accept Land - Stoneybrook Farm	Recommended by the Finance Committee subject to favorable Planning Board Report
14	Accept Land - Ternberry	Recommended by the Finance Committee subject to favorable Planning Board Report
15	Accept Land - Toblin Hills	Recommended by the Finance Committee subject to favorable Planning Board Report
16	Accept Land - Winchester Estates	Recommended by the Finance Committee subject to favorable Planning Board Report
17	Storm Drains	Recommended by the Finance Committee
18	Sidewalks	Recommended by the Finance Committee
19	Sewer Extensions	Recommended by the Finance Committee
20	Water System Improvements	Recommended by the Finance Committee
21	Oak Street Booster Station	Recommended by the Finance Committee
22	Water Line Extension	Recommended by the Finance Committee
23	Police Boathouse	
24	Donahue Revolving	Recommended by the Finance Committee
25	Counseling Services	Recommended by the Finance Committee
26	Chapter 90	Recommended by the Finance Committee
27	Stabilization Fund	Recommended by the Finance Committee

28	Rescind Bond Authorization	Recommended by the Finance Committee
29	Clause 41C	Recommended by the Finance Committee
30	Clause 5B	Recommended by the Finance Committee
31	Inter-municipal Agreement	Recommended by the Finance Committee
32	CATV PILOT	Recommended by the Finance Committee
33	Light PILOT	Recommended by the Finance Committee
34	Free Cash Tax Rate	Recommended by the Finance Committee
35	Amend Unregistered Vehicle By-Law	Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting
36	Superannuation Retirees	Recommendation to be made at Town Meeting

Mr. DeWolfe suggested that the Committee hold off on recommendation for the operating and capital budget articles (6 and 7) until there is a clearer picture of State Aid.

Mr. Campbell asked the Town Manager to prioritize the items in the Capital budget article. The Manager stated that he believes the HVAC replacements at the Municipal Office Building, the police cruiser replacements, the Commission on Disabilities work, and the sidewalks are priorities but that he would need to consult with department heads who may feel differently about projects under their jurisdiction.

Ms. O'Connor stated that she believes that Police Boathouse (article 23) is needed but that a recommendation should be delayed until a clearer financial picture is developed. Mr. Morgado stated that if approved, the boathouse will be funded by the stabilization fund account. He stated that the Committee should maintain its policy of using the Stabilization Fund for large capital projects only as was the intention when the statute was originally enacted.

Ms. O'Connor asked if the \$100,000 funding request for Shrewsbury Community Services is appropriate. Mr. Morgado responded that he felt it was appropriate based on the Governor's state aid projection.

Mr. Russell motioned that the Committee not recommendation article 35, a petition by Mr. Zecco to amend the unregistered vehicle by-law. The motion was seconded by Ms. O'Connor for discussion. Mr. Russell stated that he is philosophically opposed to additional government regulation of private property. Mr. McCaffrey stated that he would like to hear from the Chief of Police on the matter. The Committee voted 5-2 against recommending Mr. Russell's motion. On a motion by Mr. McCaffrey, seconded by Mr. Russell, the Committee voted 6-1 in favor of waiting to make a recommendation until additional information from other Town officials can be heard.

The Committee discussed article 36, the petition to modify retirees pensions for those employees with 25 or more years service and whose current pensions are less than 50% of the an incumbent in their position today. Mr. Russell voted to recommend the article. The motion was seconded by Ms. O'Connor. Mr. Morgado distributed two handouts, one illustrating the various funding scenarios and the other a survey of 25 pensions systems. Mr. Campbell asked for the total projected cost of the request. Mr. Morgado stated that the Retirement Board's actuary has estimated the cost at \$3.7 million over a period of 15 years. Mr. DeWolfe stated that he would like additional time to review the issue. Mr. Russell had to leave the meeting and Ms. O'Connor then withdrew the motion on the table. The Committee then voted to hold off on making a recommendation in order to study the matter in greater detail.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Hale
Assistant Town Manager